

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00
OMB-01 /106 W

-----141520Z 024450 /50

P R 141427Z MAR 77

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2312

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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ACTION STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN QUESTIONS ABOUT U.S. AGRICULTURAL POLICY

1. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR FOGARTY ASKED TO SEE AMBASSADOR WALKER THIS MORNING TO SEEK WALKER'S ASSESSMENT OF VIEW REPORTED TO CANBERRA BY AUSTRALIAN MINISTER IN WASHINGTON JACK SMITH. AS READY BY AMBASSADOR FOGARTY FROM SMITH'S CABLE, SMITH HAS CONCLUDED FROM STAFF LEVEL CONTACTS IN WASHINGTON THAT THE U.S. HAS "GIVEN UP ITS OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVED ACCESS FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE EC MARKET" AND IS INSTEAD CONCENTRATING ITS ATTENTION ON REACHING AGREEMENT WITH THE EC ON SUBSIDIES, PARTICULARLY ON LIMITING THIRD COUNTRY SUBSIDIES.

2. AMBASSADOR WALKER REPLIED THAT THIS CONCLUSION SEEMED SERIOUSLY EXAGGERATED. HE NOTED U.S. TRADE POLICY MACHINERY NOT YET IN PLACE IN WASHINGTON AND THAT NO
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CHANGE IN POLICY OF THIS MAGNITUDE COULD YET BE MADE. WALKER ALSO REPORTED HIS VISIT LAST MONTH WITH SECRETARY BERGLAND IN WHICH HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SECURING AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS FROM EC OUTSIDE THE CEREALS CONTEXT, A VIEW WHICH BERGLAND SEEMED TO ACCEPT. WALKER CONFIRMED THE U.S. INTEREST IN LIMITING THIRD COUNTRY SUBSIDIES AND THE FACT THAT THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN

DISCUSSED IN A VERY GENERAL WAY DURING THE RECENT GUNDELACH VISIT TO WASHINGTON, BUT STATED THAT THIS INTEREST WAS NOT IN LIEU OF U.S. INTEREST IN IMPROVED MARKET ACCESS TO THE EC. AMBASSADOR WALKER CONCLUDED BY EMPHASIZING THE CONTINUING ECONOMIC INTEREST OF IMPORTANT U.S. AGRICULTURAL SECTORS IN SECURING IMPROVED ACCESS AND THE POLITICAL IMPERATIVE TO U.S. NEGOTIATORS IN OBTAINING REASONABLE CONCESSIONS IN THIS AREA.

3. AMBASSADOR FOGARTY SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE THIS VIEW TO CANBERRA SO IT COULD BE COMMUNICATED TO OVERSEAS TRADE SECRETARY MCKAY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON.

4. ON SUBJECT OF RECENT EC COMMUNICATION ON AGRICULTURE, AMBASSADOR FOGARTY WAS AMUSED AT ANTICS, BUT WANTED TO REASSURE U.S. THAT AUSTRALIA WAS WILLING TO TALK WITH US UNDER GROUP MTN PROCEDURES. WALKER

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Message Attributes

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